

EDEYRNION RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH

RECEIVED

18 SEP 1952

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# THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(DR. EVAN WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

(E. P. JONES, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1951

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE EDEYRNION  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Rural District for the year 1951. The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population shows an increase of 28 persons over the previous year.

The Birth Rate exceeds the Death Rate and it is interesting to note that Edeyrnion Rural and Barmouth Urban Districts are the only two districts in the County where the number of births has exceeded the number of deaths. Since 1945 the Birth Rate has been greater than the Death Rate for each year and Edeyrnion is the only District in the County which has shown a persistently higher Birth Rate over the Death Rate since that year.

There were two deaths of infants under 1 year giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 27.78 an improvement over 1950 when the rate was 42.29. There has been an increase in the Cancer Death Rate and a fall in the Tuberculosis Death Rate over the previous year.

I wish to thank the Chairman, etc.

EVAN WILLIAMS,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

# SECTION A.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Rateable Value .....	£17.988
Area of Rural District.....	43.449 acres
Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Books) at end year.....	1385
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	..£71 19 0
Population (Registrar General's figures) 4,182 Estimated Mid-Year	

## COMPARABILITY FACTORS

Births 1.19	Deaths 0.74	...
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## BIRTHS.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

Nett Births (Live and Still) .....	75
Births (Live) .....	72
Births (Still) .....	3
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	= 17.22

## LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females
Total	39	33
Legitimate	37	32
Illegitimate	2	1
Illegitimate Birth Rate (Percentage of Total Live Births) =	4.1%	

## STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	1	—
Total	2	1

## DEATHS

Total Number — 68.	Males 36.	Females 32.
Rate per 1,000 population	=	16.26
1950 figures	=	13.71

Deaths of Infants under one year—	Total	
	Males	Females
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—

## Deaths of Illegitimate Infants

Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 Live Births)	...	...	= 27.78
1950 figures	...	...	= 42.29

## Deaths of Legitimate Infants

Mortality (per 1,000 Live Births)	...	...	= 27.78
Mortality (per 1,000 Live Births)	...	...	= NIL.

**Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.**

	Males	Females
Total	1	—
Legitimate	1	—
Illegitimate	—	—

**Maternal Mortality.**

(Deaths connected with childbirth and pregnancy —)

**Deaths from Cancer.**

Total = 12.

...

(Rate per 1,000 population = 2.87)

**Deaths from Tuberculosis. All forms**

Total 1.

(Rate per 1,000 population = 0.24)

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

**(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

One Medical Officer of Health.

One Sanitary Inspector.

**(2). Laboratory Facilities.**

Water analysis (Chemical) carried out by Mr. Harold Lowe, Public Analyst, Chester.

Water analysis (bacteriological) and milk examination for cleanliness and keeping quality - by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway. No charge is made for this latter service.

**(3) Ambulance Facilities.**

One ambulance stationed at Corwen.

**(4) Infant Welfare Clinics.**

Held once a month in the Aelwyd Buildings, Corwen.

**(4) Ante Natal Clinics.**

Held once a month in the Aelwyd Buildings, Corwen.

**(6) Orthopaedic Clinic.**

Held once a month in the Aelwyd Buildings, Corwen.

**(7) Tuberculosis Clinic**

Dolgellau two a month.

**(8) Diphtheria Immunisation.**

Arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health. Immunisation of babies and young infants is carried out at the Primary Schools.

**(9) Hospitals.**

There is no hospital in the Rural Area.

(10) Infectious Diseases.

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year—146.

Scarlet Fever .....	Nil
Bacillary Dysentry .....	Nil
Whooping Cough .....	116
Measles .....	17
Infantile Paralysis .....	Nil
Acute Pneumonia .....	10
Erysipelas .....	3
Diphtheria .....	Nil

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

**NEW CASES.**

Pulmonary ... ..	Total 2
	Males 1      Females 1
Non-Pulmonary ... ..	Total NIL
	Males —      Females —

**DEATHS.**

Pulmonary ... ..	Total NIL
	Males —      Females —
Non-Pulmonary ... ..	Total 1
	Males 1      Females —

**CAUSES OF DEATH 1951.**

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis Pulmonary ... ..	—	—
"    Other ... ..	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	5	1
Cancer Stomach ... ..	1	1
"    Lung ... ..	—	1
"    Breast ... ..	1	2
"    Other sites ... ..	4	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	3	2
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	1	—
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	9	10
Other heart disease ... ..	2	1
Other circulatory disease ... ..	1	1
Influenza ... ..	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—
Bronchitis ... ..	—	—
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum ... ..	—	—
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	—	—

Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases			...	...	...	5	5
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Hyperplasia of the prostate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Congenital malformation	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
						<hr/> 36	<hr/> 32

### PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

	Male	Female	Total	Population 1951	Per 1,000 Population	No. of Houses Built per 1,000 Population
Bala	5	6	11	1,488	7.3	44.4
Barmouth	4	5	9	2,366	3.8	35.9
Dolgelley	16	14	30	2,535	11.8	20.9
Festiniog	75	34	109	6,871	15.8	2.0
Towyn	9	6	15	4,410	3.4	11.8
Deudraeth	26	39	65	6,975	9.3	13.8
Dolgelley Rural	29	12	41	9,225	4.4	8.4
Edeyrnion	13	11	24	4,182	5.7	17.7
Penllyn	5	7	12	2,799	4.3	5.7
Pennal	1	8	9	319	2.8	

### GENERAL

Clean Food Campaign Circular, MF 12/49.

#### Food and Drugs Act, 1938

The Council have adopted the model bye-laws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary and clean conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption. These have been printed and circulated throughout the area.



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTION 47.

### (Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention)

No action was found necessary during 1951. A register of elderly persons living alone is now being prepared. There was some difficulty in the ascertainment of the numbers of such persons. They are reported, however, by the District Nurses, Sanitary Inspectors and Officers of the National Assistance Board.

This register, although continually changing and although it cannot possibly be kept completely up to date, does provide an index of the elderly persons living alone, and it does assist in ensuring that regular visits can be paid to these persons.

They cling to their homes, and I feel there would be much local criticism should they be removed under this Act against their will, however great was the need.

From an economic and humane viewpoint, it would be better to allow these persons to continue living in their own homes, and I find that many can manage reasonably well for themselves if provided with a little outside daily help. This can be given if they reside in a town or village.

Persons living in isolated or remote cottages provide a different problem and where no local help is near, then compulsory removal to homes is the only alternative however disagreeable it may be to all concerned.

## DISINFECTION OF INFECTED ARTICLES AND BEDDING

At the present moment there is no proper apparatus for the disinfection of infected bedding and clothing.

The main disease where infection is required is tuberculosis. The number of cases notified each year still remains at a high level.

As it would be an expensive item for each local authority to provide their own disinfectors the District Councils have now agreed to combine for the provision of a disinfectors which would be placed centrally within the county. The County Council have been approached regarding assistance, by way of transport and personnel for collection and delivery of bedding, for which payment would be made.

The request for a disinfectors is nothing new—its need was pointed out in 1888. In 1910 the Medical Officer of Health described the disinfection of bedding in the County as being more or less a farce. I believe we are at last on the verge of providing a proper disinfection service.



## WATER SUPPLIES.

The town of Corwen and the villages of Carrog, Cynwyd, Llandrillo and Glyndyfrdwy have piped supplies. The Hamlet of Melin-y-wig derives its supply from the Birkenhead Corporation Aqueduct. Part of the village of Gwyddelwern is supplied by pipes from a well.

### DETAIL:—

**CORWEN.**—Corwen derives its supply of water from Nant Cawrddu and two other un-named streams. The water is impounded at a point about 900 feet above sea level. The water is not filtered or treated before delivery into the mains.

**CARROG.**—This village derives its supply from various springs which are piped into a service reservoir with a capacity of 25,000 gallons. Most of the springs are affected by drought and the gathering ground is open to contamination from manured and cultivated land. With the additional demand for water the yield from the gathering ground is insufficient for all needs and improvements in sanitation are dependent on a supply of water from the Cynwyd Reservoir with the new comprehensive scheme.

The hamlet of Llidiart-y-parc derives its supply of water from a stream which is unprotected and liable to contamination, especially after heavy rain when the stream is in flood. This supply is privately owned.

**CYNWYD.**—This village has a very reliable supply of water derived from springs and collected into a service reservoir with a capacity of 30,000 gallons. This water is untreated and is plumbo-solvent. This supply is also dependent on the new comprehensive scheme for a pure supply of water.

**GLYNDYFRDWY.**—This village has two separate public supplies and one private supply. The supply to the greater part of the village from Ty-Ucha'r Bont is derived from a spring which is collected into two small tanks. These tanks are very small and consequently are emptied quickly by any burst pipes on the services. The supply of water from these two sources is quite inadequate to provide for the improvements in housing and sewerage contemplated.

**LLANDRILLO.**—The source of supply is from springs and the overflow from a private tank above Blaen Dre Uchaf, and piped to a service reservoir. The supply is inadequate to provide for improvements in sewerage etc. The water is also plumbo-solvent and a new supply is included in the comprehensive scheme.

**GWYDDELWERN.**—The supply from Ffynon Beuno is totally inadequate, both as regards supply and head to provide for future

developments. The well is always subject to pollution and plans are in hand for a temporary supply of water from the Corwen Reservoir until such time as the comprehensive scheme is working.

**BETTWS GWERFIL GOCH.**—This village derives its supply from a small land spring. Work has commenced on the laying of mains from the Birkenhead Corporation Aqueduct to a service reservoir with a capacity of 30,000 gallons and thence piped to the whole of the village.

**MELIN-Y-WIG.**—Water for this hamlet is obtained in bulk from the Birkenhead Corporation Aqueduct.

#### PROPOSALS FOR DEALING WITH DISTRICT COLLECTIVELY.

The new scheme for supplying water to the greater part of the district from the Impounding Reservoir at Cynwyd was carried a step further during the year. Negotiations with the Electricity Board proceeded as far as an offer being made and accepted in principle by the Board for the acquiring of this reservoir, mains and power house.

The acquiring of this reservoir will provide for one source of supply of water for Corwen, Carrog, Glyndyfrdwy, Gwyddelwern, Cynwyd. Llandrillo and Melin Rug, the whole of the water being filtered and treated at one point, ensuring a sufficient and suitable water supply for most of the district.

**GENERAL.**—Water supplies to the various villages were fairly well maintained during the summer due to a fairly wet season. For a short period the water supply to Carrog, Glyndyfrdwy, Llandrillo and Corwen had to be turned off from 8 p.m. to 8 p.m. The reason for this action in Corwen was mostly due to burst service pipes.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

**CORWEN.**—The town of Corwen is well sewered with the exception of about 12 houses. All the properties are properly drained and discharge into sewers. The sewers discharge direct into the River Dee and this method of disposal is very unsatisfactory. The Council's Consulting Engineers are preparing plans for the construction of suitable disposal works at the east end of the town.

**CARROG.**—This village is not sewered but most of the houses are drained with connections to septic tanks and cesspools. Many of the houses have privies which are very unsatisfactory. A Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is being prepared for the whole village.

**CYNWYD.**—Part of the village is sewered but conditions generally are similar to Carrog. A Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is being prepared for the village.

LLANDRILLO.—This village is sewered, one sewer discharging into a septic tank. the other direct into the river. A scheme of sewage disposal is being prepared for the village.

GLYNDYFRDWY.—The village is partly sewered. A sewerage and sewage scheme is been prepared for the village. Present conditions are very unsatisfactory.

GWYDDELWERN.—The village is sewered direct into the stream. A scheme of sewage disposal is being prepared for the village.

BETTWS GWERFIL GOCH.—A Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme is being prepared for this village.

GENERAL. Public Inquiries were held during the year at Glyn-dyfrdwy, Carrog and Gwyddelwern for the purpose of acquiring land for sewage disposal in these villages.

## HOUSING

CORWEN.—The houses, flat and shop at Caeffynnon were completed during the year bringing the number of houses now occupied in the town to 67, 1 flat and 1 shop. Unfortunately no appreciable progress was made during the year in the acquiring of a future housing site at Corwen.

CYNWYD.—The 2 houses at Llandrillo Road were completed during the year making a total of 22 houses at Cynwyd.

LLANDRILLO.—There are 18 houses at Llandrillo and eight more are contemplated to complete the development of the site.

GWYDDELWERN.—There are four houses at Gwyddelwern. Further building will be dependent on the improvement to water and sewerage.

CARROG.—There are 10 houses at Carrog and a further 4 houses were in course of construction at the end of the year.

GLYNDYFRDWY.—There are 12 houses at Glyndyfrdwy and these are dependent on improved water and sewerage for the provision of water closets.

MELIN-Y-WIG.—Eight houses were in course of construction at the end of the year.

## REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

(E. P. JONES, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.)

The district is regularly inspected for the purpose of detecting nuisances and other defects. Where minor defects or nuisances exist, informal action with owners or occupiers is undertaken and in most cases these are remedied.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—No action was deemed necessary.

**SHOPS AND OFFICES.**—No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act 1934 and Food and Drugs Act 1938. Some improvements to Sanitary Accommodation in shops were made during the year.

**CAMPING SITES.**—There are no licensed camping sites in the district and no application were received for the licensing of sites.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.**—The district being practically an agricultural area, is never liable to nuisance from smoke.

**SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.**—There are no public swimming baths or pools in the area.

**RAT INFESTATION.** During the year the refuse tip was regularly treated. Pre-baiting and poison baiting was carried out and good takes were recorded.

Some private premises were also treated for minor infestation with satisfactory results. No infestation was evident in the sewers.

### MEASURES OF CONTROL

TYPE OF PROPERTY	No. of properties inspected	No. of inspections made	Number of notices served under Section 4.		Number of treatments carried out.			
					By arrangement with Occupier		Under Section 5 (1)	
			Treatments	Works	Rats	Mice only	Rats	Mice only
Local Authority Property	2	18	—	—	3	—	—	—
Dwelling House	4	17	—	—	4	—	—	—
Business Premises	5	20	—	—	5	—	—	—
Agricultural Property	14	14	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	25	69	—	—	13	—	—	—

**SCHOOLS.**—The sanitary conditions of the Schools in the district is fairly good. Most of the schools in the district have a piped supply of water.



## HOUSING

### Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1, (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	129
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	129
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ...	Nil.
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil.
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil.
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (excluding those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	2

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or theirs ...	2
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### 3 Action under Statutory Power during the Year.

(a)	Proceedings under Section 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By Owners ...	Nil.
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	2
(2)	Number of houses where defects were remedied as a result ...	2
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice ...	Nil.







Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
Rheumatism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

	Cattle ex. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs
Number Killed	414	236	29	2312	80
Number Inspected	414	236	29	2312	80
All diseases except T.B., whole carcasses condemned	4	14	5	58	3
Percentage of number of animals affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	0.96%	5.93%	17.24%	2.5%	3.75%
T.B. only—whole carcasses condemned	3	3	—	—	—
T.B.—Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	6	—	—	5
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B	1.44%	3.81%	—	—	6.25%

The amount of tinned and other foodstuffs condemned during the year  
was as follows:—

Tinned Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125	Tins
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	Tins
Orange Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Tin
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	Tins
Bananas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	Tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	lbs
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Tin
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	Tins
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	Tins
Apples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Tin
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	Tins
Baked Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Tin
Carrots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Tin

**BAKEHOUSES.**—All the bakehouses in the district were inspected and were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

**ICE CREAM PREMISES.**—There are 2 premises registered for manufacture and 6 premises for sale only. All premises were found satisfactory on inspection.

**FACTORIES ACT 1937.**—There are 18 factories registered within the district. Of the number inspected conditions were found to be satisfactory.

**SCAVENGING.**—Refuse Collection in the district is carried out by direct labour and the disposal is by the Controlled Tipping Method

at one site in Corwen. A new Bedford Refuse Lorry was delivered at the end of the year.

**PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.**—The conveniences were fairly well maintained during the year. The total takings for the year was £80. 16. 5.

**BUILDING LICENCES.**—Licences to the value of £7720 were issued during the year.

#### RAINFALL.

January .....	3.10 inches.
February .....	2.91 inches.
March .....	5.67 inches.
April .....	2.91. inches
May .....	3.22 inches
June .....	0.85 inches
July .....	1.58 inches
August ....	3.57 inches
September .....	2.69 inches
October .....	1.07 inches
November .....	8.85. inches
December .....	5.77 inches

Total for 1951 — 42.19 inches.





